



KI-LOW-NA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY EMPLOYMENT SERVICES DIVISION 2010/2011 ANNUAL REPORT

The *Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society* (the Centre) was established in 1972 and is still active in the community today. The Centre provides a wide variety of programs and services, including Employment Services. Many of the programs focus towards the urban Aboriginal population and provide opportunities for persons of Aboriginal Ancestry to make meaningful connections with culture and traditions; however, the services provided are not restricted to Aboriginal persons.

The same philosophy applies to the *Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society* Employment Services Division and we turn no one away.



Caroline Bechtel, Employment Assistant (left) and
Lavana Fox, Employment Coordinator, (right)

The *Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society*, Employment Services Division, with a staff of 2, has had yet another busy year as our services are now well known.

The 2010 – 2011 Statistical Reporting tells us that we continue to have an average increase in “people-served” to 300 per month. These totals include new and repeat people walking through our doors; not all become clients. The Stats are broken down into 5-categories and then into sub-categories. Fiscal year-end totals are: status 1,863, non-status 41, métis 67, other 1,856; male 2,302, female 1,525; youth 298, adult 3,447, elders 82; in-person visits 3,307, telephone consults 520; resume service 346, workshops 8, career change 98, job search 689, certificate or other training 121, career assessment consults 386, funding application consults 144, and other services 2,035. Overall, we helped 3,827 people this fiscal! This continues to grow each year. Not bad for a staff of 2!

The *Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society*, Employment Services Division, continues to offer the standard employment services, such as Course Seat Purchases, Workplace Training, Youth/Student Development, Job Development, Wage Subsidies, Delivery Assistance and, of course, Employment.

The Employment Coordinator’s counseling appointments remains at 5 per day, not to mention a number of shorter “walk-in” appointments on any given day, but the significant increase continues to be with the Employment Assistant’s workload. Her role has continued to change and evolve, and the resumé service is still a popular word-of-mouth service, which includes new client

resumés and/or resumé updates or changes.

There continues to be an interest in short term and long term funding. We continue to send a number of clients on short term courses such as Flagging/Traffic Control, First Aid, Construction Safety Training (CST), and Oil Rig Certification courses, such as H2S Alive, Petroleum Safety (PST), WHMIS, and Oil Sands Orientation. As well, there has been a significant increase in the Hospitality Certification courses, such as Food Safe, Serving It Right and Bartending. Every year, with different trends we will see different patterns in the series of courses we offer. We assisted 21 clients with short term funding this fiscal!

One OTDC short term funding success story was Joel Morven. Joel came to us in February, needing his H2S Alive Certification, before leaving for a job “In the North”.

Joel now works as a Diamond Driller at Cambridge Bay in Nunavut, NWT for GeoTech. He works 4 weeks in and 2 weeks out; drills for gold; lives in a camp of 1,500; and is working on a 3-year contract.



(Joel Morven)

Overall funding dollars still need to stretch further, therefore, much of our successes continue with the short term courses, but we have also had long-term “Success Stories” this fiscal.

One such long term funding success story was Jason Grass. We were able to secure OTDC funding for Jason to enroll at Okanagan College in March to get his

Welding, Level A, as well as his Stick Welding Pipe Pressure Certification and his Stainless Tig Pipe Pressure Certification, and then he took the Provincial Test to get his Red Seal



(Jason Grass)

Certification.

Jason will soon be leaving to work in Fort McMurray for JV Driver as a Welder at the Suncor oil plant.

Another long term funding success story was Bruce Lovell. We were also able to secure long term funding for him from his Band; the Kahkewistahaw First Nation in Broadview, Saskatchewan. Bruce was able to enroll at Okanagan College in January to start on his 2-year career program to get his Culinary Arts Diploma. His long term goal is to become Red Seal Certified.

Bruce continues to enjoy the student lifestyle, as a “mature” student and continues to get above-average grades!



(Bruce Lovell)

“Passion” continues to be our drive to succeed and that reflects onto our clientele with incredible results!



Lavana Fox
Employment Coordinator
Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society
Employment Services Division